National Weather Service Raleigh, NC
SKYWARN Spotter Guide

__Spotter ID numbers are no longer provided by NWS Raleigh, and are NOT required to report severe weather to the NWS Raleigh!__

To register your class attendance (either in-person or for online training), and to be added to the NWS Raleigh database of SKYWARN spotters, please fill out the following online registration form:
http://www.weather.gov/rah/RaleighSkywarnRegistration
If you experience any trouble with the above form, please send an email message to Nicholas.Petro@noaa.gov

Call the NWS when you observe any of the following:

Tornadoes - What damage did you observe? - How long was it on the ground? - When did it start and end?	**Wall Clouds and Funnel Clouds** - Report if clouds are rotating and how long they have existed. - Watch for organization, persistence and rotation.
Flash Flooding - Report flooded roadways, rivers and streams, giving approximate water depth. - Are the flood waters standing or flowing? - Is the flooding rising, staying steady or falling? - Are cars stalled in flood waters? Any damage from the flooding or mud slides?	**Winter Weather** - Report any occurrence of freezing rain, ice accumulation and damage. - Report precipitation type change-overs, and when they occurred - At the end of the event, report storm total snow or ice accumulation.

Severe Thunderstorm Straight-line wind
- Report any wind damage (damage to structures, trees power poles/lines down, etc).
- If possible, report estimated or measured wind speed.
- Details to submit for tree damage:
  - What is the height and diameter of the branch, limb or tree that was broken or blown down?
  - Was the tree healthy or decayed?
  - What type of tree was damaged, e.g., hardwood or softwood?
- Details to submit for damage to structures.
  - Is the damage to a well-built structure or a weak outbuilding?
  - What is the main building material for the structure: wood, brick, metal, concrete, etc.?
  - If the structure is a mobile home, was it anchored down?

Hail
- At first, report any size hail
- At the end of the event, report the size of the largest stone and any damage.
- To estimate size, compare hail to well-known objects such as coins or balls, but not to marbles, or measure the hail with a ruler

Tropical Storms or Hurricanes
- During Storm:
  - Funnel Clouds and Tornadoes
  - Wind gusts over 50 mph
  - Wind damage
  - Flooding
- End of Storm:
  - Lowest pressure
  - Rainfall total
  - Highest wind gust
  - Damage / Flooding

Methods of reporting severe weather to the NWS Raleigh:

- NWS Raleigh severe weather hotline: 1-800-444-7928
- Use our web-based reporting form shown below. This form works great on smartphones! http://www.weather.gov/rah/submityourweatherreport   Be sure to bookmark this to the desktop of your PC or smartphone!
- *A picture is worth a thousand words*! Please email storm photos to: rah.reports@noaa.gov
- **mPing** spotter reporting smartphone app for Andrior & Iphone. Just search for "**mPing**" and download for free.
- Social Media: Tweet storm reports and photos to @NWSRaleigh. Post storm reports and photos on our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/NWSRaleigh. Be sure to "Like" our Facebook page for NWS updates.
- Central Carolina Skywarn Net 146.88 repeater or Central Carolina Skywarn Facebook Page https://www.facebook.com/CentralCarolinaSKYWARN/

Spotters should use the following guidelines when reporting:

- Remain calm, speak clearly, and do not exaggerate the facts.
- If you are unsure of what you are seeing, make your report, but also express your uncertainty.
- Immediate, real-time reports are most helpful for warning operations, but delayed reports are also important, even days after an event.
- Don't assume that someone else already reported it.
- Don't report something that you didn't see yourself.
- Don't send in fake or false reports – that's illegal, and spotters who send us fake reports will be referred to law enforcement!
- Don't assume that your report will become a Local Storm Report, or will result in a warning!
- If you take the time to measure the snow and ice for fun, take an extra few seconds to call that measurement in to us at the NWS; or better yet, report it to NWS via your smart phone using the web-based reporting form web site shown above.

Your report should contain the following information:

- WHO you are: trained spotter…give your name and best phone number to reach you back.
- WHAT you have witnessed: the specific weather event
- WHEN the event occurred: NOT when you make your report
- WHERE the event occurred…which may not necessarily be your present location. Use well known roads or landmarks when describing the location.

When reporting hail size, it is useful to reference common objects, such as:

- Pea 1/4"
- Penny 3/4"
- Nickel 7/8"
- Quarter 1"
- Half Dollar 1¼"
- Walnut or Ping-Pong Ball 1½"

- Golf Ball 1¾"
- Lime 2"
- Tennis Ball 2½"
- Baseball 2¾"
- Softball 4

Useful Web Sites and Continuing SKYWARN Education:

- NWS Raleigh SKYWARN page: http://www.weather.gov/rah/skywarn
- Spotter Guide: https://www.weather.gov/media/owlie/SGJune6-11(1).pdf
- COMET MedEd SKYWARN Training: https://www.meted.ucar.edu/training_course.php?id=23
- NWS Raleigh Twitter: https://twitter.com/NWSRaleigh
- NWS Raleigh Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/NWSRaleigh/
- Rainfall reporting program: http://www.cocorahs.org
- Spotter Network: https://www.spotternetwork.org
- Central Carolina Skywarn: https://centralcarolinaskywarn.net

SKYWARN Training Certificate:

- If you would like to obtain a certificate for attending SKYWARN training, you can download and customize one for yourself via the following link:
  - http://www.weather.gov/media/rah/skywarn/RAH_SKYWARN_Certificate.pdf
  - The password is: skywarn